

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A storage and dispensing container for slides, comprising a cover and a receptacle portion, wherein the receptacle portion comprises a floor and a circumscribing wall forming with the floor a receptacle cavity for holding an array of slides therein, the circumscribing wall including opposing wall portions having cut-outs therein exposing portions of faces of slides in the array of slides reposed in the receptacle cavity, wherein the receptacle portion is sized and constructed so that a user can grasp the array of slides with opposing digits contacting said portions of faces of slides in the array through the cut-outs.
2. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cut-outs each have a same shape.
3. The storage and dispensing container of claim 2, wherein the cut-outs each have a shape selected from the group consisting of semicircular, elliptical, obloid, square, rectangular, semihexagonal, semiocagonal, and other polygonal shapes.
4. The storage and dispensing container of claim 3, wherein the cut-outs each comprise a semicircular shape.
5. The storage and dispensing container of claim 4, wherein the shape of the cut-outs includes vertical linear surfaces tangently intersecting the semicircular shape.
6. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cut-outs each have a different shape.
7. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cut-outs each have a same size.
8. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cut-outs each have a different size.

9. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the shape of the receptacle cavity is rectangular, and the circumscribing wall includes a front wall, back wall and side walls, wherein the cut-outs are in the front and back wall.
10. The storage and dispensing container of claim 9, wherein the cut-outs in the front wall and back wall are generally substantially aligned with one another.
11. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cut-outs are of a size, shape and location so that said user can grasp the array of slides with opposing digits contacting said portions of faces of slides in the array through the cut-outs.
12. The storage and dispensing container of claim 9, wherein the cut-outs in the front wall and back wall are in register with one another.
13. The storage and dispensing container of claim 12, wherein the receptacle cavity has a length in a range of from about 3.5 to about 5 inches, a width in a range of from about 2 to about 4 inches and a height in a range of from about 1.2 to about 2 inches.
14. The storage and dispensing container of claim 13, wherein the receptacle cavity of the container has a slide capacity in a range of from about 40 to about 100 slides.
15. The storage and dispensing container of claim 13, wherein the receptacle cavity of the container has a slide capacity in a range of from about 60 to about 90 slides.
16. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cover and the receptacle portion of the container comprise a material selected from the group consisting of plastics, wood, ceramics, cellulosic materials, metals, composite materials, woven web materials, and non-woven web materials.
17. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cover and the receptacle portion of the container are formed of plastics.
18. The storage and dispensing container of claim 17, wherein the cover and the receptacle portion of the container comprise a material selected from the group consisting of natural and synthetic polymers and resins.

19. The storage and dispensing container of claim 18, wherein the cover and receptacle portion are formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinylchloride, polyvinylidenechloride, polycarbonate, polyurethane, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene and polyvinylacetate.
20. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cover and receptacle portion are formed of a material selected from the group consisting of cellulosic materials and polymers.
21. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, wherein the cover and receptacle portion are formed of polyvinylchloride.
22. The storage and dispensing container of claim 18, wherein the cover and receptacle portion are fabricated by a technique selected from the group consisting of die-molding, extrusion molding, vacuum forming, solvent casting, injection molding, and roto-molding.
23. The storage and dispensing container of claim 21, wherein the cover and receptacle portion are fabricated by a process comprising application of heat and/or pressure.
24. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, as fabricated by a process including pressure forming.
25. The storage and dispensing container of claim 1, as formed by a process including thermoforming.
26. The storage and dispensing container of claim 13, wherein the cut-outs each have a length at the top of the front or back wall that is in a range of from about 0.5 inch to about 1.5 inches.